

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 EURE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

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FM USMISSION OECD PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASH DC PRIORITY 6223

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O.11652:N/A

TAGS: ENRG, OECD

SUBJECT: JAPANESE ATTITUDES TOWARD IEA R & D PROGRAM

1. JUST PRIOR TO IEA R & D MEETING MARCH 20, UNDER CHAIRMANSHIP OF SCHMIDT-KUESTER (FRG), MISSION SCI COUNS HAD BEEN APPROACHED BY KEICHI OSHIMA, OECD DIRECTOR FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INDUSTRY, SAYING THE THE AGENCY OF INDUSTRIAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, (AIST) OF THE MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INDUSTRY (MITI) HAD SERIOUS QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE IEA R & D PROGRAM. OSHIMA SUGGESTED THAT SCI COUNS MEET WITH HISAYASU TANAKA, A MITI REP AT JAPANESE DELEGATION, FOR A DETAILED EXPLANATION OF JAPANESE RESERVATIONS.

2. IN MEETING, TANAKA SAID THAT THE AGENCY DIFFICULTIES WERE SEVERAL FOLD. FIRST, HE NOTED THAT THE AGENCY SUPPORTS "PROJECT SUNSHINE" WHICH HAS PROGRAMS IN COMMON WITH THE IEA R & D PROGRAMS. AGENCY RESEARCHERS PREFER TO WORK UNILATERALLY IN THESE AREAS. EXCEPT FOR EXCHANGES OF INFORMATION, INTERNATIONALLY SHARED PROJECT INVESTMENT WAS NOT APPEALING

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TO THEM. PROJECT SUNSHINE FUNDS ARE SHORT AND MITI IS CONCERNED THAT PROVISION BY GOJ OF INTERNATIONAL

SUPPORT FUNDS IN THESE FIELDS WOULD RESULT IN CUTS IN THE AGENCY ENERGY PROGRAM. TANAKA STATED THAT THE FINANCE MINISTRY ALSO WAS VERY SKEPTICAL ABOUT FUNDING OF IEA R & D PROGRAMS.

3. FINALLY TANAKA SAID THAT THE INITIAL DRAFT SET OF GUIDING PRINCIPLES PRESENTED TO THE SCHMIDT-KUESTER GROUP ON FEBRUARY 20 WAS VAGUE AND THEY REQUIRED ELABORATION OF THE FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS. SCI COUNS EXPLAINED PRINCIPLE OF "UNITARY MANAGEMENT" AND REMINDED TANAKA THAT THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES WERE BEING REWORKED, AS SCHMIDT-KUESTER HAD INDICATED TOWARD THE END OF THE FEBRUARY 20 MEETING; SINCE "UNITARY MANAGEMENT" AND OTHER CONCEPTS MIGHT CHANGE, JAPANESE SHOULD BASE THEIR JUDGEMENTS ON THE NEW SET OF GUIDING PRINCIPLES WHICH WOULD EMERGE SHORTLY. TANAKA ALSO INDICATED THAT THE TERM "CONSORTIUM" HAD CONNOTATIONS WHICH ARE DIFFICULT FOR JAPANESE TO ACCEPT.

4. THE FORMALITY OF THE TANAKA DISCUSSION HAVING BEEN COMPLETED, OSHIMA CONTACTED THE MISSION SCI COUNS TO REAFFIRM WHAT TANAKA HAD STATED AND MADE SOME ADDITIONAL POINTS. OSHIMA SAID THAT THE US SHOULD ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN JAPANESE CONCURRENCE ON THE PRINCIPLE OF AN INTERNATIONAL R & D PROGRAM RATHER THAN ON THE BASIS OF THE TECHNICAL CONTENT OF SUCH A PROGRAM. THE TECHNICAL CONTENT SHOULD BE WORKED OUT AFTER POLITICAL CONCURRENCE HAS BEEN OBTAINED. HE ALSO SAID THAT THIS SHOULD BE PURSUED PRINCIPALLY ON THE BASIS OF BILATERAL CONTACTS AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL RATHER THAN THROUGH THE SCHMIDT-KUESTER COMMITTEE. OSHIMA SAID THAT GENERALLY JAPAN PREFERS BILATERAL US-JAPAN ENERGY R & D ARRANGEMENTS AND THAT THEY WERE SUSPICIOUS OF WHAT WAS REGARDED ESSENTIALLY A TRILATERAL ARRANGEMENT WITHIN THE IEA FRAMEWORK BETWEEN THE US, JAPAN AND THE EEC. THEY REGARD SCHMIDT-KUESTER AS REPRESENTING EEC INTERESTS.

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5. AT THE SCHMIDT-KUESTER MEETING ON MARCH 20, THE MAJOR JAPANESE INTERVENTION FROM K.ESAKI REPRESENTING A.I.S.T., M.I.T.I. WAS ON THE QUESTION OF HOW THE NEW GUIDING PRINCIPLES WOULD AFFECT EXISTING AND FUTURE BILATERALS. SCHMIDT-KUESTER EXPLAINED THAT IT WAS HIS INTERPRETATION THAT THE IEA R & D PROGRAM WAS TO SUPPLEMENT RATHER THAN PRE-EMPT EXISTING OR FUTURE BILATERAL PROGRAMS AND THAT SUCH PROGRAMS WERE NOT AUTOMATICALLY TO BE SUBSUMED BY THE IEA.

6. FOLLOWING THE SCHMIDT-KUESTER MEETING, TANAKA TOLD SCI COUNS THAT NEW GUIDING PRINCIPLES SEEMED MORE ACCEPTABLE TO HIM PERSONALLY BUT HE FELT THAT MORE CLARIFICATION WAS STILL REQUIRED. SCI COUNS, ALONG WITH DENIS LAMB (EUR/RPE) AND GORDON GRANT(OES), THEN MET

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SEPARATELY WITH ESAKI AND OSHIMA. ESAKI AND OSHIMA (THE LATTER EMPHASIZING THAT HE WAS SPEAKING IN A PERSONAL CAPACITY) HAMMERED STRONGLY ON THE FEARS OF POSSIBLE DISRUPTION IN BILATERAL RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN JAPAN AND THE US. AFTER ESAKI HAD REPORTED TO THE JAPANESE MISSION, TANAKA AGAIN CONTACTED SCI COUNS AND SPOKE IN EVEN STRONGER TERMS OF JAPANESE FEARS ON SAME THEME.

7. MISSION COMMENTS: THE INTENSITY OF THE JAPANESE CONTACTS DEMONSTRATES A VERY REAL CONCERN, AT LEAST ON THE PART OF MITI, OF THE POSSIBLE EFFECT OF IEA ACTIVITIES ON US-JAPAN BILATERAL RELATIONSHIPS IN

R & D FIELD. THE REPORTED CONVERSATIONS MAY TO SOME
EXTENT REFLECT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND MITI. MISSION HAS THE IMPRESSION
THAT MITI'S AGENCY OF INDUSTRIAL SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY, IN ADDITION TO THESE FINANCIAL WORRIES,
FEELS IT MAY BE ABLE TO DEVELOP PROPRIETARY INTERESTS
IN AT LEAST ITS FOUR SUNSHINE AREAS AND WILL BE
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RELUCTANT TO SHARE THOSE PROPRIATORY INTERESTS
ESPECIALLY WITH THE EEC. THAT EEC IS LEAD AGENCY IN
THE IEA FOR HYDROGEN FROM WATER-SPLITTING MAY ENHANCE
JAPANESE APPREHENSION. ESAKI SIGNALLED HYDROGEN
PARTICULARLY IN PRIVATE DISCUSSION. JAPAN HAD
ACCEPTED THE LEAD ROLE IN SOLAR ENERGY IN THE IEA BUT
THEIR INITIAL PERFORMANCE WAS POOR. IT NOW APPEARS
POSSIBLE THAT THEIR PERFORMANCE MAY HAVE BEEN AFFECTED
BY FACTORS REPORTED ABOVE.

8. MISSION RECOMMENDS THAT BILATERAL CONTACTS AT THE
HIGHEST APPROPRIATE LEVEL SHOULD BE INITIATED IN
TOKYO AND/OR IN WASHINGTON TO EXPLAIN US OBJECTIVES IN
THE IEA R & D PROGRAM. THESE TALKS SHOULD NOT BE
CONFINED TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY BUT SHOULD INCLUDE
CONTACTS WITH MITI AND MITI AIST AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES.

9. AN OPPORTUNE TIME FOR THE TOKYO DISCUSSION WOULD
APPEAR TO BE BEFORE OR DURING THE FIRST MEETING OF THE
PANEL FOR THE REVIEW OF JAPAN-US SCIENTIFIC AND
TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION WHICH WILL BEGIN IN TOKYO ON
APRIL 7. JUSTIN BLOOM, US SCIATT DESIGNATE FOR JAPAN
WILL BE PRESENT. BLOOM HAS PARTICIPATED IN FORMULATION
OF US POLICY ON IEA R & D PROGRAMS. ESAKI WILL BE
AVAILABLE AT THAT TIME AS WILL TANAKA AND OSHIMA, BOTH
OF WHOM WILL BE "ON LEAVE" IN TOKYO.

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